

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 AGR-05 /046 W

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R 241507Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GE, NI

SUBJECT: GDR CONCLUDES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH NIGERIA

REF: BERLIN 1907

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, GDR AND NIGERIA SIGNED LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT OCTOBER 16. GDR TRADE MISSION ARRIVED LAGOS OCTOBER 11 AND DEPARTED OCTOBER 16. DURING VISIT MISSION, WHICH HEADED BY GDR MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE HORST SOELLE, HAD OPPORTUNITY CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE, AS WELL AS COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER FIELDS, WITH VARIOUS FMG OFFICIALS INCLUDING COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE WENIKE BRIGGS. MINISTER ALSO PAID COURTESY CALL ON GOWON WHERE SAME SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED. EXCEPT FOR SIGNING OF TRADE AGREEMENT ONLY OTHER ITEM OF INTEREST WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING VISIT WAS AGREEMENT BY GDR TO BUY MORE COCOA FROM NIGERIA.

2. COMMENT: WHILE THERE WAS MUCH IN LOCAL PRESS ABOUT GDR/FMG CORDIAL RELATIONS, THERE WAS LITTLE INDICATION OF ANY STRENGTHENING

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OF TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. COURTESY CALL ON GOWON SEEMS

TO HAVE BEEN NO MORE THAN JUST THAT. EXCEPT FOR POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT LEADING TO INCREASED TRADE, WHICH, AS RIGHTLY POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, IS CURRENTLY NEGIGIBLE, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING MORE SUBSTANTIVE HAVING RESULTED FROM GDR MINISTER'S TRIP. OF POSSIBLE FUTURE SIGNIFICANCE IS JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY PACT TO INSURE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF TRADE RELATIONS AND TO SERVE AS MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT USE WILL BE MADE OF IT. AT MOMENT FRG CLEARLY HAS INSIDE TRACK WITH RESPECT TO TRADE IN NIGERIA AND GDR WILL HAVE MUCH CATCHING UP TO DO IF IT SERIOUSLY IS INTERESTED IN NIGERIAN MARKET.

3. SINCE GDR/FMG DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FORMALIZED ONLY VERY RECENTLY (APRIL 1973). SOELLE VISIT CLEARLY ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE CAMPAIGN ALREADY STARTED TO FURTHER LEGITIMIZE GDR IN EYES OF NIGERIANS WHO UP UNTIL PRESENT HAVE TENDED TO BE PRO-FRG (THE FRG BEING WELL ENTRENCHED IN NIGERIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE). THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY GDR COUNSELOR WHO TOLD ECON COUNSELOR AT RECEPTION FOR MISSION EXERCISE WAS ESSENTIALLY AN IMAGE BUILDING ONE FOR POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES. IN THIS RESPECT VISIT CAN PROBABLY BE DESCRIBED AS BEING SUCCESSFUL FROM GDR VIEW POINT.

4. TEXT OF AGREEMENT WILL BE POUCED TO DEPT.  
REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

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